

Educational Status of the Slum Dwellers: Kharagpur City

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Abstract

The growth of slums in cities is deteriorating the urban landscape and creating environmental crisis in the form of spreading of diseases, ill- health, malnutrition and making the city a center of crimes and other evils. The problem of slum growth is not only recognized in the metropolitan or million cities but also in the developing class I cities like Kharagpur. Kharagpur city is the fourth largest city and the fifth most populated city of West Bengal with a total population of 2,07,604 (2011) census in south-western part of Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal. The objective of the present study is to analyze the educational status of the slum dwellers of Kharagpur city. Education is directly related with income and socio economic conditions. The slum dwellers are suffering from illiteracy and ignorance. This study is based on Primary data collected from 15 slums which included 396 households in Kharagpur city. Secondary data was collected from the Kharagpur Municipality Office, Meteorological Department Kolkata, Survey of India Kolkata, D.M. office of West Medinipur, Census Handbook and District Statistical Handbook etc. The excessive population growth rate, low level of income, illiteracy, lack of availability of proper nutrients are the basic drawbacks among the people living in slum areas. Employment opportunities, expansion of social education, cleanliness, recreational facilities have to be adopted for slum improvement and bettering the wellbeing of the slum dwellers in the city.

Keywords: Education, Slums, Kharagpur City.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of urbanization in India has brought in its wake, several problems. Slums are one of them which have become a threat to the urban environment. Slums are the expressions of

the 'culture of poverty' and deteriorating phenomena of squatter settlements. The problem of slum growth is not only recognized in the metropolitan or million cities but also in the developing class I cities like Kharagpur. The word 'SLUM' entered into English usage somewhere around 1812 in Veuxs Flash Dictionary. The first prominent use of the term seems to be come from 'Shaw' 1898 when he made 'Slum Land- Lordism' the subject of his play 'Widower's Houses'. Slum was defined as 'a street, alley, court etc. situated in a crowded district of a town or city and inhabited by the people of low income class or by the very poor, a number of these streets and courts forming a thickly populated neighborhood of a squalid and wretched character'.

The employment and educational opportunities have attracted the surrounding rural population which in term create acute problem in residential congestions. Besides the engulfment of rural areas in the city fringe by corporation and the influx of displaced persons from Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as immigration from Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa have from time to time poured an excess amount of population into the city. This population aggregation has created the problems of inadequate housing and insufficient public amenities. The increased overcrowding in the city has given rise to slums. These slums have emerged like mushrooms in and around Kharagpur city, now being 297 in number. Poverty and ill health of the slum dwellers, haphazard building of huts and houses are largely responsible for the deplorable state of affairs in these localities. These pockets have now become a threat to whole of the urban community of Kharagpur.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Nambiar.P.K.(1961) studied the "educational level of the school students of Madras city. He had made a comparison between the preschool and high school children educational level." Das (1963) "conducted an educational survey of the Dasnagar slum areas which came into existence during the industrialization process due to the migration of the rural areas. Bansal Richa (1992) studied the "Educational Status in Slums of Bhilai and Raipur". Sharma Manju (2013) studied the "Educational level of the slum dwellers of Kurukshetra City". A Household Survey was conducted by Halder Somenath (2013) to "study the slum children educational level in English Bazar Town, Maldah District, West Bengal". Mohd, Kaish (2014) studied the "Challenges of the slum dwellers related to education in the Slums of Aligarh city". Subbaiah,R. (2015) studied the "Slums and urban community development giving emphasis on education: A study of slum students of non- industrial town". Reddy Jayarami (2017) carried out a study of the

“Educational status of the Slum dwellers in Hyderabad City”. Ramalingam (2018) give emphasis on “the educational problems related to a poor level of income in the slums dwellers in Aurangabad”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the present study is to analyze in detail the educational status of the slum dwellers of Kharagpur city. Attempt has been made to compare the educational status of the high school students between Tribal, Oriya, Telugu, Muslim, Hindu slum dwellers who have migrated to the city from different socio-cultural background. Also to evaluate the slum development policies and programs run by the government for the development in the educational level in the slum areas.

HYPOTHESES

The assumptions in terms of research hypotheses are as follows.

1. Education is directly related with income and socio economic conditions.
2. Some slum dwellers are suffering from lack of education

STUDY REGION

Kharagpur is fourth largest city of West Bengal in area after Kolkata, Durgapur and Asansol and fifth most populated city of West Bengal, located at 22°17'30"N - 22°30'N latitudes and 87°15'E - 87°22'30"E longitudes, covering an area of about 127 square km located in south – western part of Paschim Medinipur district. It has an average elevation of 29 meters. It is the most populated city of Paschim Medinipur district. Kharagpur municipality with a total population of 207,604 of which male and female are 106,559 and 101,045 as per as census 2011 is divided into total 35 municipal wards. With diversified functions, it is a fast developing city.

SOURCES OF DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study is based on Primary data collected through interview, schedule from 15 slums of Kharagpur city. The sample slums are selected purposely from Commercial, Railway, Industrial areas, Water bodies, Roadways and from the Fringe areas. The sample households from these total 15 number of slums were divided into 4 income groups:

- i) Medium income (Rs >15000).
- ii) Low medium income (Rs 10000 - 15000).

iii) Low income (Rs 5000-10000)

iv) Very low income (Rs <5000).

Pretested schedule were filled up by the interview of the head of the family. Keen observations were made to identify their socio- economic status and problems. Schedule comprises questions regarding family members their socio- economic conditions, residential conditions, basic facilities and amenities, mode of transport, food habits and food consumption.

Secondary data was collected from the Kharagpur Municipality Office, Agriculture Department & Meteorological Department Kolkata, Survey of India Kolkata, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata, D.M office of West Medinipur, Census Handbook, and District Statistical Handbook etc.

PROCESSING OF DATA:

The data and information have been tabulated and processed and analyzed using computer and various statistical methods like percentage, correlation and “t” Test etc. The data have been represented with the help of suitable maps and diagrams.

THE SAMPLE SLUMS

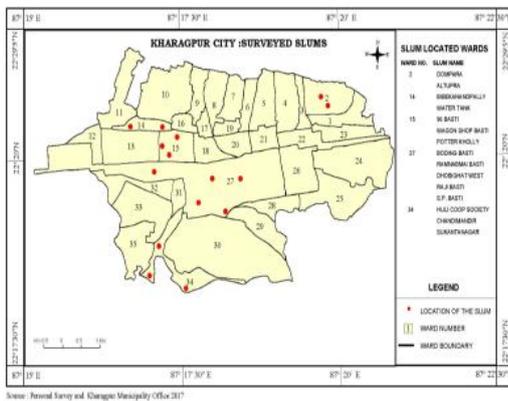
In view of these 15 number of slums selected purposely for comparative study. Dompara, Altupara, Bibekanandpally and the Water Tank are inhabited by the Hindu immigrants, 96 Basti, Wagon Shop Basti are inhabited by the Muslim immigrants, Potter Kholly, Boding Basti, Ramnabmai Basti, Dhobighat West, Raji Basti, S.P. Basti, Hijli Cooperative Society, Chandimandir, Sukantanagar are inhabited both by the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain immigrants. The below table gives a view of the sample slums. 96 Basti, Wagon Shop Basti and Potter Kholly lies along the railway areas, Boding Basti, Ramnabmai Basti, Dhobighat West, Raji Basti and S.P. Basti lies along the C.B.D. and the road areas Bibekanandpally and the Water Tank lies along the industrial areas and the remaining Dompara, Altupara lies along the fringe areas. These slums are inhabited by medium income, low medium income, low income and very low income groups either engaged in daily wage earners, business, private services and maid – servants for household work are provided by these slums.

POPULATION OF THE SAMPLE SLUMS

The sample size of surveyed area is 396. Total population of these sample is 1704 in which 913 are male and 791 are female. The number of nuclear families in the surveyed area is 261

are more than joint family 135. Medium size family (4-6) are found more. Percentage of S.C. population in the surveyed area is more 44.19 %.

SELECTED SAMPLE SLUMS				
SLUM NAME	WARD NO.	SLUM CODE	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	TOTAL POPULATION
DOMPARA	2	8	47	168
ALTUPRA		10	56	250
BIBEKANANDPALLY	14	120	64	223
WATER TANK		123	41	160
96 BASTI	15	124	29	105
WAGON SHOP BASTI		126	36	118
POTTER KHOLLY		129	53	199
BODING BASTI	27	249	43	171
RAMNABMAI BASTI		251	38	168
DHOBIGHAT WEST		252	42	131
RAJI BASTI		254	69	307
S.P. BASTI		255	80	330
HIJLI COOP SOCIETY	34	320	60	289
CHANDIMANDIR		323	47	204
SUKANTANAGAR		324	84	300



Source: Personal Survey and Khargpur Municipality Office 2017

DISCUSSION

Education is a powerful instrument for the development of any nation, society or region. It is more essential for eradicating the poverty and create a peaceful and friendly environment. Education level is one of the major important indicator of any society level of educational change the human beings and improve the

quality of life style. Knowledge can make smart thinking of any field of development.

Literacy also represent the enteral advancement of any region or society. Based on the educational status of 396 member of households the rate of illiterate people is more than literate people. 57.17% male and 48.08% of female are found to be illiterate. The educational level of the primary school (25.06 % male and 26.14% of female) is found comparatively high than middle school (20.46 % male and 21.31 % of female) , secondary level (14.07 % male and 14.2 % of female), higher secondary level (12.27 % male , 12.78 % of female), U.G. level (8.95 % male and 7.39 % of female) and P.G. level (3.84 % male and 2.84 % of female).

CONCLUSION

In the concluding part it has been found that the total 396 sample slum families are divided into 4 income groups and it has been seen that education is directly related to income. The percentage rate of very low income family (below 5000) is maximum 39.09%. When the income level rises the education level will also rises. The average monthly income and educational level of the slum dwellers showing positive correlation 0.82. During the study of the slum areas it is been clearly seen that out of their total income more than half part it is been spent in the consumption of food items, health and sanitation. The government facilitated compulsory and free education upto 8th standards. The drop out case is maximum because of the poverty. Male becomes rickshaw pullers, drivers, workers and laborers and the

female gets early married. Recreational facilities, Anganbadi, School should be built for the social welfare in the slum areas.

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